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Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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UN Special Procedures need more cooperation

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) welcomes the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its excellent work. ODVV believes that the special procedures are the most important vital mechanisms of the Human Rights Council for promotion and protection of human rights. We highly appreciate and support their effective efforts and contributions to the improvement of human rights situation all over the world; and firmly call states to fully support and cooperate with the special procedures and in special occasions extend invitation to the mandate holders for the country visits.

In some cases we have seen that the required cooperation do not take place between the countries and special procedures. This is contrary to the countries' international commitments and lead to the fact that some special procedures keep facing difficulties in carrying out their mandates in an effective manner in the absence of access to enough and suitable evidences and documents.

Since August 2014 to-date, following the establishment of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Gaza Conflict, Israel had no cooperation with the Commission. However, during the one year investigation on the Gaza conflict, the Commission completed its mission by relying on indirect evidences. Accordingly, the Commission prepared its 2015 report based on the NGO's reports, 280 interviews with the victims, witnesses and 500 written complaints.

Although the Commission managed to complete its mandate, a direct visit would facilitate the Commission's access to real statistics leading to preparation of a well -documented report, which would be more fair and transparent. As a consequence better results would be achieved.

ODVV is deeply concerned with non-cooperation between states and UN special procedures and calls upon the states for full cooperation with the UN mechanisms.

This organization asks Israel to facilitate the visits of Gaza Commission of Inquiry helping the experts to complete their mission in a supportive atmosphere.